

JEWISH OBSERVER AND MIDDLE EAST REVIEW

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ISRAEL'S NEW DEFENCE CONCEPTS PAGE 9

COMMENT

A NEW MIDDLE EAST BALANCE OF POWER

Permutations, as most people now know to their cost, are not identical with solutions. This applies as much to the United Nations as to the football pools. By our latest count, we have established that the top ten personalities at the General Assembly have to date had well over a hundred major interviews with each other. But so far not one single concrete proposal has emerged from these private talks, except suggestions that there should be still more such talks. And the more this round of meetings continues, the more Ben-Gurion's staying away will be appreciated. Talks can be all-important, but they must have an objective that is attainable *by consent*. What we have been getting are endless permutations, not solutions.

Yet, while the Assembly has been meeting, talking and dining, the last link in the chain of the new strategic reality of the Middle East has been forged. On Monday, the NATO command in Athens confirmed the report we published last week about the presence of powerful Russian naval units in the Eastern Mediterranean. Without entering into a competitive appraisal of the American and Russian fleets in these waters, it suffices to say that whatever else it may or may not show, this latest Soviet manoeuvre marked the end of the unchallenged rule of the U.S. Sixth Fleet in the Eastern Mediterranean. The Americans are probably still vastly more powerful than the Russians in these seas, but that is not the issue. What matters from now on is that the Americans are no longer alone. The new frontier between East and West now runs through the Eastern Mediterranean.

* * *

In a way, it tends to underline the new balance of power in this region. And it need not be a bad thing. It depends what use the great powers, and the small states of the Middle East, make of the new situation. Clearly, the Russians and the Americans are interested in avoiding any conflict in the region which might spread to their fleets and beyond into a world conflict. Both are therefore inclined toward the maintenance of the *status quo*. But the presence of these fleets has not removed the balance of fear from the Arab-Israeli dispute.

President Nkrumah drew attention to this in his initial address to the Assembly, and again last weekend when he elaborated his theme of the problems facing an Arab-Israeli settlement. His suggestions make sense. They advance only the minimum that both sides might be asked to concede. But it is quite clear that even these limited suggestions have not the slightest chance of being gen-

uinely accepted. It is nice to hear them coming from one of the oldest of the new countries, but in terms of diplomatic action they stand no chance. This is fundamentally a talking, not an acting, Assembly. This may be better than nothing, and is certainly better than war. But it does not solve anything.

The U.N. Assembly remains one of the most significant platforms in the world; but as matters stand it is not likely that it will be able to do anything to break the deadlock of the balance of fear between Arab and Israeli. Indeed, can anything or anyone do it? The Arabs are genuinely afraid that the Israelis are preparing their destruction, and the Israelis are equally genuinely convinced that the Arabs will take the first opportunity to destroy the Jewish State. Speeches, assurances, threats, propaganda and the whole armoury of private talks are pretty useless for this kind of operation.

* * *

This is clearly one of the principal aspects of the rethinking of Israeli defence which appears to be under way. The Israelis no longer need to impress on the Arab world that they are—under Middle East conditions—a military factor. The Sinai campaign showed this, and the subsequent Arab hesitations to do anything which might involve an armed conflict with the Israelis have forcefully underlined this situation. The Arab leaders are clearly under no illusion about their chances of attacking Israel.

Oddly enough, it is the reverse that is one of Israel's main problems. The Arabs are sure that the Israelis plan to attack them at the first suitable opportunity. Nothing will shake them from this belief; one almost gets the impression that they do not want to be shaken from it. The fact that Israelis have no such intention, that they would be crazy to try it in the international setting in which they have to live, and all other possible reasons, make virtually no impact on the Arab mind, which is now hopefully focused on every weakness, or shortcoming, in Israel's social, political and economic structure.

Under these conditions, the new concepts of defence must clearly reach out far beyond the purely military. Just as the Israeli defence forces have made their position clear, so this new integral defence of Israel will have to make it no less clear that Israel's economic and political defences are as strong as her military forces. As we have said, this is not done by public relations but by unmistakable demonstration—especially by the domestic policy of the Government.

What Israel does in Israel, what her people achieve, and what world Jewry and Israel's friends in the world help her to achieve, will in this coming period be decisive. Her deeds in Israel will count a millionfold against any number of words spoken abroad.

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MIDDLE EAST

WHY HUSSEIN DID IT

TIGHTENING THE ROPE AROUND NASSER

from our own correspondent

Beirut:

In the light of Saturday's amazing announcement from Amman that the Jordan Government had decided to recognise the Kassem régime in Iraq, it might be thought that the matter of whether or not the Iraqis were involved in the recent assassination of Jordan Premier Hazza Majali had been settled once and for all.

It would be as premature to reach this conclusion as to place too much emphasis on the Jordanian announcement. So far (Tuesday), it has not been followed up by any welcoming statement from Baghdad. Iraqis here in Lebanon are just as puzzled by the development as are the Jordanians here, a puzzlement which is shared by every other observer.

The Amman statement, issued by Acting Premier Sheikh Mohammad Amin Shanquity, said that Jordan had recognised the Kassem régime on King Hussein's cabled orders from New York and out of a desire to "remove the differences" between sister states. A Government spokesman in Amman would add only that Jordan's recognition came after King Hussein had been assured, during a meeting with the Iraq Foreign Minister in New York, that General Kassem had denounced the killing of King Feisal.

Kassem's boast: This explanation might wash in Jordan. But it is as unlikely as the apparent rapprochement between the two countries. It is recalled here that, only a couple of months ago, Kassem was openly boasting to a few of his friends about the manner in which he had brought about the deaths of Feisal and other members of the royal family, a boast which was duly relayed to the Iraqi public by the newspapers.

Until we hear what the Iraqis have to say about the Jordanian announcement, we can probe no further into the facts of the supposed new relationship. But this does not prevent local observers from asking the most important question of all: if there has been an Iraqi-Jordan rapprochement, what could have brought it about and what are its implications?

On this there is almost unanimity—Syria is the jumping off point and the fu-



A HERO'S WELCOME IN NEW YORK
Only the pictures smiled

ture of Syria is now more in the balance than ever. If there is one topic on which Hussein and Kassem can find common ground, it is President Nasser and his United Arab Republic. If there is one spot at which they can do him the greatest damage it is Syria, the weakest link in the first stage of the Nasser empire.

Emergency meeting in Damascus: Kassem has never made any secret of his attitude toward Syria. Its people, he holds, are held forcibly under Egyptian domination and their greatest desire is to be freed from this yoke and enabled, should they wish, to associate themselves with Iraq in a fertile crescent scheme. Hussein, while non-committal on the fertile crescent idea, is similarly convinced that the Syrians are thirsting for release from Egyptian tutelage.

Both would like nothing more than to see Nasser thrown out of Syria. The threat which a renewal of Iraqi-Jordanian co-operation would pose to the Syrian Region was reflected in the five-hour emergency meeting of the Syrian Executive Council which was called into session by its new Chairman, Colonel Serraj. The tension which has been running high along the Syrian-Jordan border for the past few weeks continues unabated. It would be no surprise here if it were now to be extended to the Syrian-Iraqi border.

A DOUBLY "BLESSED STEP"

Jordanian newspapers unanimously and effusively welcomed the announcement that King Hussein has ordered recognition of the Kassem regime in Iraq. *Al-Manar*, in an editorial entitled

"Blessed Step," said that the hearts of sincere Arabs "have ever longed for a meeting to join anew the two leaders of the Arab movement in the field of joint struggle, which began with the sparking of the great Arab revolution in these regions and which has not yet ended."

"Forgiveness": *Ad-Difa*, which also headlined its editorial "Blessed Step," commented that "the forgiveness of King Hussein and his anxiety to preserve the unity of the Arab ranks were behind his deep and sympathetic endeavour, as were personal feelings and considerations of public interest. It is not strange then that the Jordanian people welcome his Majesty's favour throughout the land."

HARD BLOWS AT THE U.N.

NKRUMAH DELIVERS THE HARDEST

from our own correspondent

United Nations, New York:

There is an almost desperate feeling of concern among the Arab delegates attending the General Assembly session. The image that President Nasser presented here last week of a great and united Arab nation has been shattered into a thousand pieces.

In place of the image we have the reality, as Hussein and Nasser fight it out before the fascinated gaze of the great and small nations of the world. Hussein's arrival here captured the headlines. He was the only reigning monarch to lead a delegation to the

Assembly session. And when he rose to address the Assembly, the vast hall was crowded.

Hussein, as form requires, dwelt in his remarks on international questions, following the general western line. But then he came to the Middle East situation and there he pulled no punches. The U.A.R., he charged, was seeking to dominate the Middle East. Should it succeed, either as a neutral or openly as a communist ally, then "they will destroy the very basic aims of our Arab nation."

"A habit": The young king, who spoke in English, detailed for the Assembly all the known incidents of U.A.R. provocation against Jordan. These, he said, had grown in intensity to the point where he believed that their only intention was "our destruction."

The king's appearance was a bitter blow for the U.A.R. delegation. Until then, Nasser had walked the Assembly corridors and ridden the New York streets as a fellow giant with Nehru and Tito in the neutral camp. Now, however overstated Hussein's case, there was something uneasy in the neutralist approach to Nasser, and not least among the representatives of newly independent Africa. Some of the mud had stuck.

"Recognise Israel": But the Arabs at the U.N. have suffered an even greater blow, delivered by no less a personality than Ghana President Nkrumah, with whom President Nasser has been closeted on several occasions during the past week and who is a fellow-member of the neutralist club.

Nkrumah advised the Arabs at the weekend to recognise the political reality of Israel, urged the creation of an independent Palestinian state outside of Israel in which the Arab refugees would rule themselves and warned that any effort to drive the Israelis out of their land would mean "global war."

Answering questions at a U.N. Correspondents' Association gathering, President Nkrumah observed: "The situation in Palestine between Israel and the Arabs is bad. But the realities are that there is an Israel, and they have established themselves—but also that the refugees are out there, in no-man's-land."

Lesson in realism: "But if they are going to use force to get Israel out, they are only headed for war—and global war at that. The most pressing problem is the refugee problem, and here we don't want to step on the toes of anyone. But it would lead to world war."

Because it was Nkrumah, the Arab delegations said nothing. But there is no hiding the shock they suffered from this lesson in realism.

ISRAEL

LAVON AFFAIR — BEN-GURION STEPS IN A CHOICE OF TRUTHS

from our Jerusalem correspondents

A combination of over-assiduous Histadrut press agents and a gullible press were fast leading the Israeli public into a cesspit of rumour and speculation over the "Lavon affair" this week when Prime Minister Ben-Gurion stepped in and called a loud "halt."

His intervention was timely and to the point. It came in the form of a 1,700-word statement on which he worked from early Sunday morning until just before the day's Cabinet meeting.

It made clear for the first time that two separate matters were involved in the "Lavon affair," the first concerning a security issue which developed at the end of 1954 and the second Lavon's resignation from the Sharett government in 1955.

"Forged documents": In his statement on Sunday, Ben-Gurion referred to "false, unfounded and tendentious statements and comments" in the press which followed his meeting with Lavon on September 26. He had given no information to the press about this meeting and he assumed that nothing had been said by Lavon. "But someone decided to stir up trouble..."

For his own part, Ben-Gurion stressed, he was not personally involved in what is now popularly referred to as the "Lavon affair."

The Prime Minister then dealt with the security issue involved. It is giving away no secret to state that this revolves around the question of whether or not Lavon was in any way responsible for a security breakdown in 1954.

Previously investigated: The *Jerusalem Post*, in a leader on Sunday, came as near to an explanation of Lavon's involvement in this security matter as we are likely to get for the present. Lavon, it explained, had rejected responsibility for a certain course of action, placing the blame on a subordinate who, Lavon claimed, had acted without orders. The subordinate claimed that he had received a proper order.

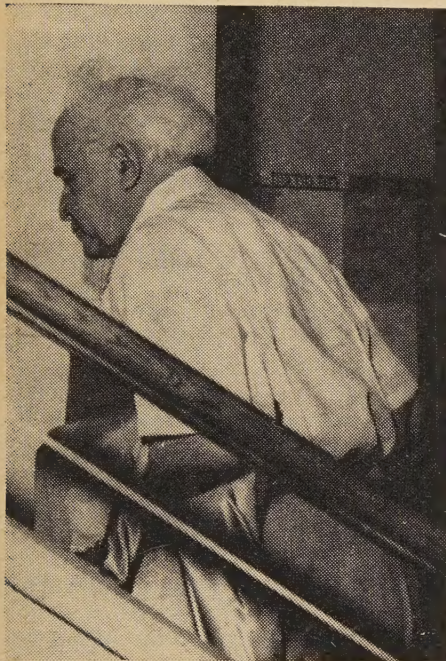
An investigation held at the time, and presided over by Chief Justice Olshan, seemed to establish convincingly that Lavon was "in the know." Now, Lavon claims, evidence has been produced which



THE KING STEPS OUT
Is Iraq going to follow?

clearly establishes that he was involved only on the basis of forged documents.

Separate matters confused: In his statement on Sunday, Ben-Gurion said that, in his capacity as Defence Minister and in the light of certain material submitted to him by Lavon five months ago, coupled with reports that had reached



BEN-GURION

Neither clash nor conflict

him during the trial of a "certain person" in recent months, he had felt it his duty to instruct Chief of Staff Laskov to institute a board of inquiry to investigate the integrity of one officer on active service and another officer in the reserves.

He had not suggested that Lavon should testify before this board, but he had turned over to Lavon relevant material of which the latter was not aware.

Through "misinformation or bad faith," said Ben-Gurion, two separate matters were being confused. One was "an unfortunate incident" on which a committee appointed in 1954 by Sharett, at Lavon's request, had reached no conclusion; the other was Lavon's resignation.

Sharett spoke the truth: He then recalled that Sharett announced in the Knesset in February 1955 that Lavon had resigned after his proposals for changes in the structure of the defence organisation had been rejected by the government. In this, said Ben-Gurion, he was convinced that Sharett spoke the truth.

Lavon, he recalled, had made a statement to the same effect to both the Cabinet and the Knesset Foreign Affairs

and Security Committee "and anyone who writes that Lavon was dismissed is either purposely writing an untruth—and there are such journalists—or is writing about things without having knowledge of them."

Ben-Gurion comments that, even today, he does not know what changes Lavon proposed at the time.

Elementary right: He cannot, he pointed out, reveal the contents of his recent discussion with Lavon because there has been no mutual permission to do so. He assumed that Lavon "did as I did and said nothing about our discussion to the press."

But, "I must refute certain false or inaccurate reports that appeared in the press." For instance, the committee appointed by the Chief of Staff at his request was dealing, not with the Lavon affair, but with the integrity of two officers.

"Since Lavon thought, perhaps rightly, that this material (which turned up in the course of a recent civil court case) affects him, I gave it to him. But the officers being investigated must be given every opportunity to prove their innocence; this is the elementary right of every man, even a criminal. . . .

"As Defence Minister, I will not allow an officer to serve whose hands are not clean, but neither will I allow an officer to be pilloried without proof and trial."

Neither clash nor conflict: The remainder of the Premier's statement is taken up with extensive quotations from what he terms untrue or misleading reports from *Yediot Aharonot*, *Ha'aretz*, *Haboker* and *Lamerhav*.

In commenting on them, he stresses that he has never accused Lavon of anything and, rather than finding fault with him, he valued his work in the Ministry of Defence and his "important work in the Histadrut." He knew nothing of a "clash or conflict with Lavon." But if questions of "exoneration" arose, then only a court had the right to exonerate him.

Those newspapers which were dealing with this affair in good faith and with concern for the truth and Lavon's good name were deserving of praise, said Ben-Gurion. "But I am not certain that all the newspapers are dealing with the affair for such pure motives. Other persons should not be blamed directly or indirectly—and we are concerned here with two officers of the Defence Forces—so long as they have not been proven guilty.

"Dubious defence": "I assume that Lavon is not in the least interested in defence or aid of this dubious kind."

Ben-Gurion is probably right in his assumption. Lavon's aides, however,

seemed to feel otherwise. Immediately after the meeting between the Premier and Lavon on September 26 there was an "inspired" leak to the newspaper *Maariv*. This has been followed by a series of stories fed to almost any newspaper willing to accept them.

The burden of these stories has been to suggest that Lavon was a wronged man, that his resignation from the Defence Ministry was engineered by the use of forged documents and that he is entitled to public rehabilitation on this count.

Manoeuvre scotched: What Ben-Gurion has now made clear is that conclusive evidence is not yet available on the question of forgery and that—much more to the point—Lavon's resignation was over an entirely different matter: his proposals for changes in the defence organisation.

There is no denying the impression gaining ground that Lavon's publicity team at the Histadrut, have attempted—without his approval, one must assume—to use the resignation issue to present him as a wronged man and thus gain sympathy for him in the coming political battle over the future status of the Histadrut. However, Ben-Gurion now seems successfully to have scotched this manoeuvre before it could get very far.

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from our special correspondent

Athens :

Following the recent excursion by units of the Soviet Black Sea Fleet into the Mediterranean, news has been received by NATO naval intelligence here of considerable activity at the Egyptian submarine base at Rosetta, some 30 miles east of Alexandria.

Russian, Czech and Polish officers and technicians are engaged in maintenance and training operations at Rosetta, which is also the Egyptian destroyer base.

Renewed allied interest in Rosetta was first aroused when it became known that traffic between Russia and the Congo, and in the opposite direction, was passing through Rosetta, a useful crossroads on the Russia-Africa route.

War games? Rosetta and its hinterland are known to be a heavily fortified base, and movement along military roads in the area has been considerably increased in the past fortnight. No one here in Athens is willing to hazard a guess at

the reason for the upsurge in activities but unofficial views boil down to two possibilities:

1. A large scale exercise in co-operation with units of the Soviet Navy is in the offing;

2. The moves are connected with the Syria-Jordan crisis.

There is also the possibility, as likely as any other, that the Russians are just playing a cat and mouse game with the NATO Mediterranean command, a favourite pastime in recent months.

SOVIET CHALLENGE IN MEDITERRANEAN

There was confirmation on Monday from Vice-Admiral Anderson, Commander of the U.S. Sixth Fleet, of last week's JEWISH OBSERVER report that Soviet warships had recently held exercises in the Mediterranean.

Answering questions aboard his flagship Des Moines, the admiral said that he had noticed an increased number of Russian warships in the Mediterranean. Those already in the area were mainly based on Albania.

He also confirmed the JEWISH OBSERVER report that Soviet naval vessels equipped with electronic detection devices were present in the area. Their presence, he stated, gave further emphasis to the interest the Russians were showing in this part of the world.

RETURN TO ALEXANDRIA

EGYPT'S ONCE GAY CITY NOW IN DECLINE

*from our special Middle East
correspondent, Robert Gee*

There is no denying the shock experienced on a return to Alexandria after a year's absence. No matter what the mood of the rest of Egypt, Alexandria always retained its own cosmopolitan sense of gaiety, its worldly aloofness from the ecstasies or apathies that were then the particular fashion elsewhere in the country.

Now all this has changed. There is a feeling of restriction and of boredom. The city itself is dirty, faded and lifeless, despite the new buildings and the military business in the port. Most of all, the people of Alexandria regret the cutting of their once close links with the west and the coming of the Russians.

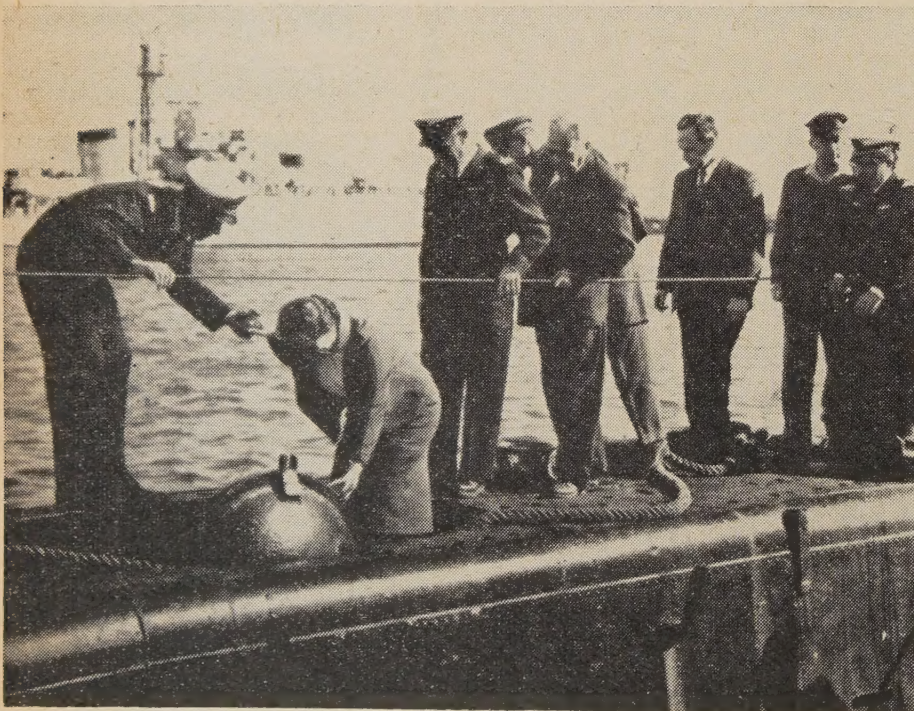
The most immediate impression is the drabness of everything and everybody, a consequence of the national policy of austerity, itself a result of the indebtedness of the régime. The huge programmes of industrialisation and militarisation have to be paid for and the people are paying for them.

Russian books controlled: Meals are frugal compared with a year ago. Clothing is cheap and shoddy. The dandy of yesterday is shiny about the seat and ravelled around the cuffs. There are plenty of cars in evidence, but not the ostentatious limousines of yesterday. The big cars are tucked away in garages, their owners either unable to afford the expense of running them or fearful of demonstrating their wealth.

It is the merchants and professionals who have fared the worst. The Alexandrian fruiterers, who once imported only the best and sold at the highest prices, no longer have either the goods or the clientele. Fruit, like most other food-stuffs, is of poor quality.

The bookshops are under-stocked. Even Russian books are no longer available because Gamal, as he is generally referred to, will not let the Russians distribute their publications other than through an officially-approved retailer in Cairo, whose clients are all *bona fide* government employees or hold official posts.

Praiseworthy efficiency: The masses fare little better than the formerly well-to-do, although the Alexandrian masses are not representative of Egypt as a whole. Perhaps the hardest hit are the tourist touts. "No business, no tourists,



NEW INSTRUMENTS OF FOREIGN POLICY

Mrs. Golda Meir finds out what life is like in an Israeli submarine

no money, no work" just about sums up their position.

But on the lower levels of public administration there is a new and praiseworthy efficiency, a sight to astonish the eyes of old-time travellers in these parts. The thanks are due mainly to the smart and confident soldiers and police officers who are everywhere and have a hand in everything. Nowhere is their influence more apparent, and welcome, than in the railway and postal departments which have been improved beyond recognition.

Among the faces on the city streets, one is immediately struck by the number of Africans (though, as I found later, they are nothing like as numerous here as in Cairo). Several of them are enrolled for the new term at Alexandria University where entry is controlled by the military through the registration system and with the help of the Interior Ministry.

Russia admired: But the most remarkable development of all is that Alexandria has lost its tongue. People who were once eager to voice their views to the point of being boorish confine themselves to trivial chatter. The kerb-side and café gatherings of vociferous Alexandrians are gone. Conversation is desultory and dull. There is no escaping the feeling that people fear to do anything other than praise the régime.

Taxi-drivers are still the most frank and critical—the teachers and minor administrators the most talkative and adulatory of President Nasser.

The communists are unpopular because of the unpopularity of the Russians. But this does not mean—and I must stress this—that the Russian state is not admired. It is. Everybody regards Russia as the super-state of the twentieth century. It is hard to see what the Americans can do to win back even a mote of their former standing.

Heavy hand on communists: The British no longer count as a nation, but individual Britons command tremendous admiration, almost a complete reversal of the Russian situation. Alexandrians miss the British teachers and businessmen and say so. They equally miss the English schools. The Egyptians are trying to run the former "English" schools, but the heart has gone out of them and so has their reputation.

Trade unionism has advanced at a fair pace in the last twelve months, but under close military control. Anyone suspected of the slightest communist sympathies is promptly hauled off to prison and his family with him. No leftist tendencies are allowed breathing space anywhere.

This is one reason for the close con-

trol on foreign publications. President Nasser has his own special department for the reading of all foreign newspapers and journals. This employs a large body of translators, indexers and compilers. Most of them are Europeans of mixed origin and they work under the supervision of a German, with Nasser in direct control. The President himself reads a huge number of English and American publications.

The other revolution: It is a favourite belief in Alexandria, among the civil service, that the President is better informed on foreign matters than on domestic issues. "No one tells him anything," is a confidence imparted after several cups of coffee. But it is difficult to believe that this is so.

The general intelligence system, it is true, is under the personal direction of Zakariya Mohieddin, and it would not be difficult for Mohieddin to process the sort of material that reaches the President. But Nasser has never relied on this system alone. He has his own network of internal intelligence—so much so, that higher income households no longer keep servants because they fear that information as to their financial status might reach the President.

Now, your Alexandrian hostess not only opens the door to you herself—she also cooks the meal and serves it. Only those who knew the old Alexandria can appreciate how great is this revolution.

Refugees an "unwanted catastrophe": The extraordinary thing, however, is that while most people feel lost and disappointed in their lot, not one of those many with whom I spoke — and they came from every walk of life—wanted to see a return of the Muhammed Ali dynasty.

Farouk is not only hated, but blamed for "bringing all this upon us." The upper income class and the intellectuals are going through a period of self-hate for having allowed a situation to develop in which Nasser was able to rise to the leadership. Amongst this group there is a sneaking regard for Kassem and the way in which he has successfully stood up to Nasser for more than two years.

There is surprisingly little interest shown in the "Israel problem," despite the amount of attention paid to it by the press and radio. The Egyptians regard the Palestinian refugees as an unwanted catastrophe and one they cannot afford. "Look," said one old friend, "all we want to do is eat and bring up our children."

New upper class: Living quietly in the background and off the fat of the land are the three or four hundred senior officers who have replaced the old top stratum in society. They are most discreet, fearing to draw criticism which might

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bring their comfortable world tumbling about their heads and the heads of the gorgeous women who have found their way to the money.

One publisher with whom I talked, claimed that it was the existence of this special class that partly resulted in the nationalisation of the press and Nasser's ban on the publication of stories about people's lives or of photographs of Egypt's monde or demi-monde. The officers, said my informant, saw the dangers which such publicity could bring.

But by restricting the press generally, Nasser has made a major mistake. The newspapers are no longer trusted and, instead, more attention is being paid to foreign broadcasts. The result is whispered rumour and conjecture, which is itself unsettling.

No forgiveness: The Jordan border business made many people jittery and underlined the general distaste for the link with Syria. "We don't want Syria." "What have we to do with Syria?" This was said to me several times. The Egyptians may be prepared to forgive Nasser many things. I doubt if they would forgive him a war undertaken on Syria's behalf.

U.S.S.R.

JEWISH CULTURE IN DEEP FREEZE

LITHUANIA, LATVIA MORE LIBERAL

from a student of Soviet Affairs

Against the background of the ceaseless social and economic changes which the Soviet Union is undergoing almost monthly, official policy towards Soviet Jewry strikes one by its unnatural immobility.

Concerts of Yiddish folk songs and performances of excerpts from Sholem Aleichem's most popular plays are still being given in Vilnius, Riga, Leningrad, Moscow and a number of Russian and Byelorussian towns.

But in the Ukraine, where, according to the latest population census, a good third of all Soviet Jews still live, the ban imposed by Krushchev as far back as 1944-45 on even the slightest expression of Jewish culture remains in force.

Monuments to the massacred: For reasons that are not altogether clear, Lithuania and Latvia continue to demonstrate a more liberal attitude towards Jewish expressions of national consciousness and culture than the other Soviet republics.

Following the erection of monuments and museums on the most important sites of Jewish martyrdom under the Nazis—the 9th Fort of Kaunas, Ponary outside Vilnius, Kiserwald near Riga—Lithuanian

and Latvian Jews have now been allowed to commemorate the memory of the tens of thousands of their people who were massacred by the Germans and their local henchmen in the country towns and villages of Lithuania and Latvia.

Monuments have been erected over the mass burial pits of murdered Jews in the Latvian country towns of Kraslovka, Jacobstadt and Ventspils.

Part of the repertoire: The announcement, which I reported last spring, that the Moscow State Fine Letters Publishing House would this year publish in Yiddish a volume of David Bergelson's selected works and another of Asher Shvartsman's poems, remains so far the most important concession made by the Kremlin to the fact that there are still Soviet Jews who want to read works by Jewish writers in Yiddish.

On the other hand, the publication recently of a two-volume Russian translation of David Bergelson's *On the Dnieper* can hardly be regarded as a concession to Jewish cultural claims. The book is probably the best novel produced by a Soviet-Yiddish writer, but it is also one of the most significant works in Soviet literature.

As such, it is bound to become part of the classical repertoire of Soviet works of fiction. By publishing it in Russian, the publishers are doing their Russian readers a much greater favour than the author's fellow-Jews.

Chapters to Poland: Both Shvartsman and Bergelson are dead. Living Yiddish writers are still unable to see their works in print. Thus Abraham Kahan, who recently completed a novel based on Sholem Aleichem's life, has to send chapters

of his work to Poland, there to get them printed in *Folks Shtime*.

The tenacity displayed by Soviet Jews in the defence of their cultural heritage appears in the most unexpected places. Thus, 65 year old Joseph Chernyak, a product of the now defunct Kiev Institute for the Study of Jewish Culture, who before the last war was well known for his writing on Yiddish linguistics, read a paper on "The most important research problems in Yiddish studies" at the Uzbek Academy of Sciences in Tashkent, where he now lives.

The policy of the present Russian leaders to accept all that Jews have to contribute, but never to acknowledge their contribution as Jews, has again been demonstrated this month. On the 100th anniversary of his death, the press and radio all over the Soviet Union paid homage to the genius of Isaac Ilyich Levitan, the greatest Russian landscape painter, whose paintings for most Russians imprison the very soul of Russia's forests, steppes and rivers.

Close to Chekhov: Born the grandson of a rabbi in the Lithuanian village of Kibart, Levitan never denied his Jewishness. He was twice expelled from Moscow, because he did not have an official permit to live outside the Pale of Settlement. When he died in 1900, he was buried in the old Jewish Dorogomilov Cemetery on the edge of Moscow.

In Soviet times his remains were exhumed and he was brought to burial in the Novodyevichy Cemetery close to the grave of his old friend Anton Chekhov. Because of the lack of reliable documents on Levitan's early life, it was believed until quite recently that he was born in 1861.

But only a few months ago Soviet scholars succeeded in deciphering the Hebrew inscription on the tombstone erected by Levitan's brother over his grave in the Dorogomilov Cemetery and discovered that he was born in 1860. Hence the commemorations this year.

Thirty years on: I have listened to many talks on Levitan's work and greatness broadcast by Moscow radio. Not a single speaker considered it necessary to point out the wonder that a Jew from a village in the non-Russian borderland of the Tsarist Empire became the greatest painter of the Russian countryside.

Nor did a single speaker use the life of Levitan as an illustration of the stupidity of the Tsarist system, which did not allow a man like Levitan to live in Moscow, but granted this privilege to every wealthy Jew.

These silences and omissions speak volumes. They could never have occurred in the 1920's or even in the late 1930's.

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IN THE NEWS

ISRAEL'S NEW CONCEPTS OF DEFENCE

IT IS NOT WITHOUT significance that, in the 12 years of her existence, Israel has had the same Prime Minister (with only a brief interlude while Ben-Gurion "rested" at Sde Boker), but that during this same period Israel has had four Chiefs of Staff. Why, it might well be asked, was it necessary to change the soldiers but not the civilians? The answer is not as simple as it may appear. The personal element entered into it, of course, but it was not decisive. The real issue in every new change was not so much the man as the policy: the concept of Israel's defence.

LESSON OF THE DETERRENT

When Dayan took over from Makleff, it marked a clean break in the outlook and training of the Israel Defence Forces. The defensive gave way to a psychologically and militarily aggressive concept of defence. Dayan rebuilt the army on that basis. He trained it to that one end. He shaped it in the many border clashes until it was ready for any test—and in the Sinai battles it withstood the test. Behind this reorientation there was the concept of the deterrent. The Arabs, in Dayan's view, had to be shown that it would not pay them to attack Israel. And the only show that could be effective was a live show—the Sinai offensive.

But once this had been achieved,



TCHERA TSUR
Lesson from the Swiss



SPOKESMAN AVRAM KIDRON
No time for gimmicks—a chance for better things

Dayan had in a manner fulfilled his mission. He understood it that way and handed over to Haim Laskov, a man with a wholly different temperament and outlook, eminently suited for the new tasks of redeploying Israel's armed forces. This was as much a psychological exercise as a military one. The Dayan doctrine had to make way for another. This process of settling down is rather more difficult than to key up troops for action. But Laskov's solid personality has set its imprint on this major transition in Israeli defence thinking. He did, however, perfect the central concept of the Dayan doctrine which has now become an integral part of Israeli military thinking: he impressed the deterrent character of Israel's army on the Arab world. He thus made the major contribution to peace on Israel's borders for which the past two years have been most noteworthy.

LASKOV SET THE TONE

But now, it seems that Israeli defence thinking is again undergoing searching self-examination. General Laskov himself has set the tone for it. He has initiated the far-reaching studies that take account of the silent strategic revolution of which Israel has to take note. In this connection, it is worth recalling that, in each case so far when the Israeli Chief of Staff has been changed, the initiative has come

from the officer who had noted the changed requirements. This was so in the case of Yadin, Makleff and Dayan.

CHANGE SINCE SINAI

Now Israel again faces a major readjustment of defence policy. The threats against which she has to be on guard have undergone considerable change from the post-Sinai days. She has to anticipate two possible but very contradictory developments. The threat, voiced frequently by the Iraqi leader, General Kassem, that he will carry an Algerian-type war into Israel with the help of the Palestinian Arabs; and the probability that the only serious threat to peace will be inter-Arab conflicts. Thus the armed forces must be trained and prepared for the most difficult type of anti-guerrilla commando operations, and for the even more difficult task of remaining always prepared and on their toes while nothing happens. This can become very demoralising for an army.

Reports from Jerusalem indicate that Premier Ben-Gurion and the Chief of Staff, Haim Laskov, have agreed on another reconstruction of Israeli military doctrine to meet this new condition. One step in this direction is the return to the High Command soon of Laskov's former Deputy Chief of Staff, Tcherá Tsur. Tsur has spent the last two years studying and

observing with foreign armies of every type. He returns to Israel well qualified to play an important part in the re-shaping of the defence concepts of the nineteen-sixties. For Tchera Tsur now has the experience of battle in Israel—he was the first Israeli officer to get to know the Egyptians in 1948—and of observation abroad. His return to the ranks of the High Command should help greatly in the creation of the new image of Israeli defence, at home and abroad. It is not unlike that which the Swiss army established during the second World War: to be ready to fight, to be respected by your opponents and to be supported by your own people—however great the exertion. Somehow, a very different Israeli Defence Force from that of the Sinai days is taking shape to meet the new conditions, the new men and the new needs of this new age in the Middle East.

KIDRON AS FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN

THE ANNOUNCEMENT IN JERUSALEM by the Director-General of the Foreign Ministry, Dr. Yahlil, that he had appointed a senior official as Foreign Ministry spokesman

has come none too soon. For far too long a time, the Israel Foreign Ministry has not really had a spokesman with adequate authority. Now the mantle has fallen on the shoulders of the director of the Ministry's research department, the former Press Attaché in London, Avram Kidron. This is in itself a step in the right direction; even more important is the fact that Kidron retains his old department. In other words, he will not have to rely on others to be fully briefed, but his existing position will enable him to know what is going in the Foreign Ministry world.

Avram Kidron takes over this position at a moment when a man in his position can play an important educative role, at home in relation to the Israeli press, and in the wider field of world opinion. For Kidron is not a gimmick-merchant. He understands the outside world, the Middle East as much as Whitehall. He is not the back-slapping public relations official, but the knowledgeable guide that so many inquirers at the Foreign Ministry prefer.

There was a time when one went to the Israeli Foreign Ministry for objective information not only about Israel, but also about anything connected with the Middle East. Lately, however, this has



DAVID MORSE
Learning about ORT

been a journey that has only rarely been worth while. Yet the gap in our knowledge is wider, not smaller. As a spokesman for the narrow, almost, parochial, pronouncements of the Israel Foreign Ministry, or for an occasional propaganda sortie, there is really no need for someone of Kidron's calibre. But if the office is to be restored to its one-time eminence—and improved upon—and so become the information centre for the whole of the Middle East and the related African and Asian countries, then Kidron's new post could become one of the central positions of Israeli policy making. It provides a tremendous opportunity for information—without propaganda.

ORT BY MORSE

IT IS STRANGE that a community with such a passion for good works has never really taken to its heart the activities of ORT, or to give its full title, the Organisation for Rehabilitation through Training. On the other hand, a lot of blame lies with the ORT directorate which has never done much to publicise in Britain its 80 years of endeavour in training under-privileged Jews for skilled trades. But now there is an opportunity for honourable amends all round. ORT, which is an integral part of the local scene in places as far apart as Rabat and Warsaw, is to hold a conference at Caxton Hall from October 23 to 27 when one of the guest speakers will be David Morse, head of the International Labour Organisation in Geneva. Morse is worth hearing on any occasion, he should be doubly so on the topic of ORT.

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BREEZE OF CHANGE ON NASSER

FIRST FLUSH FADES

from our own correspondent

New York :

For a day or two it seemed as if Nasser's apparent study of *How to Win Friends and Influence People* had paid off, but only for a day or two. The *New York Times*, in a profile, spoke of Nasser's physical vitality, which it said was known to have caused scores of people to faint at the mere sight of him.

So far, no New York hospital has reported having to treat any local citizen so afflicted, although for a few hours it seemed as if Eisenhower himself had succumbed.

In the chaos of diplomatic sallies up and down Park Avenue, with harried constabulary radioing ahead "Khroosh is off to see Nassy" or "Hold Hussein till Tito clears Fifth," Eisenhower met with Nehru and Nasser in an effort to counter the Soviet attack on the U.N. and on Hammarskjöld personally.

Flat denial: After those meetings, American sources claimed that the President had scored a major personal and diplomatic triumph, for "both Nasser and Nehru gave President Eisenhower to understand they would oppose" Khrushchev's U.N. re-organisation plans.

The announcement was accompanied by pictures of Eisenhower and Nasser grinning at the cameramen and inspired



PRESIDENT NASSER, FOREIGN MINISTER FAWZI—AND A CRITIC?
No one seems to have fainted

notes that "there was reason to believe that the President was satisfied with his talks with the Indian and the Arab leaders."

It wasn't very long, however, before Nasser's press office came out with a flat denial of reports that Eisenhower had won over the Egyptians to the western position in support of Hammarskjöld.

Without "substantive comment": Admitting that the Eisenhower-Nasser discussions had "dealt with the United Nations and the necessity of its continued strength by all possible means," the U.A.R. statement added: "The

talks, however, had nothing to do with the Secretariat." So much for the promised new warmth in U.S.-U.A.R. relations.

One of the things that Nasser had discussed was his concern that U.S. Presidential candidates were supporting Israel and ignoring "the case of the Arab refugees." Informed sources said that Eisenhower noted Nasser's remarks without "substantive comment."

In his speech to the United Nations, after his meeting with Eisenhower, Nasser avoided any specific endorsement of Russia's demand that Hammarskjöld should go, but there was implied criticism in his charge that "masked imperialism" was seeking to exploit the U.N. and to retain a grip on the Congo Republic.

A whisper to Fawzi: There were signs after all this that the United States was reconsidering its support of the U.A.R. for a seat on the Security Council and, if the Government needed any backing, it came in strong editorial comment in the major dailies after Nasser had introduced the Arab-Israel issue in his U.N. speech.

Before his speech, Nasser had seen Castro and had briefly met with Hammarskjöld. The day before, Macmillan and Nasser met for the first time since the Suez crisis. They were seated across from each other at the U.N. and, observers noted, they seemed to steal glances at each other although neither caught the other's eye.

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Then, during a brief interval in the proceedings, Lord Home sauntered across the aisle and whispered into Mahmoud Fawzi's ear. Fawzi, in turn, whispered to Nasser who, with Macmillan, rose to his feet. The two shook hands, spoke briefly, and then sat down again.

Israel joins the game: That was the prelude to the formal meeting two days later at the headquarters of the U.A.R. U.N. delegation on Park Avenue. As they met and shook hands, Macmillan said that the purpose of his visit was to try to improve relations between the two countries, to which Nasser responded that that was similarly his desire.

For two hours, Macmillan, Home, Nasser and Fawzi discussed some of the difficult details of the London-Cairo economic relationship (including payment for British residents' property seized in Egypt), and also some of the problems facing the current U.N. session.

Israel, aware of U.N. moves and alert to the power play, shared in the high-level lobbying and top-flight meetings that, after a day or two, came to be the accepted pattern of life in New York. Golda Meir and her aides saw Herter and Home, visited Nkrumah and bumped, momentarily, on the way out, into Nehru who was on the way in, and arranged a series of meetings with a number of African representatives, including the Ethiopian Foreign Minister.

Candidature challenged: It was while all this was going on that some of the wind was taken out of Nasser's rather full sails by the New York press, notably the *Times* which, a week earlier, had been inclined to idolise him. Noting Egypt's candidacy for a seat on the Security Council, the *Times* wanted to know what the U.A.R. has "recently contributed" to the maintenance of international peace and security. It went on:

"President Nasser controls the Suez Canal. Last April he announced his intention to afford 'uninterrupted navigation for all nations.' In spite of his stated position he has not only consistently refused passage to Israeli ships but—as in the case of the Greek vessel *Astypalea* last spring—has confiscated Israeli cargoes carried in neutral bottoms. He has done this in disregard of specific United Nations recommendations, as well as in violation of the Suez Canal's basic charter.

"The fact that President Nasser has shown a pleasant personality during his visit here has nothing to do with the case. When his Government uses an international canal to carry on a cold war with another member of the U.N.,



WITH MACMILLAN
Lord Home whispered

flagrantly violating the freedom of the seas, it disqualifies itself."

Surprising thought: The new mood on Nasser coincided with the arrival of King Hussein whose welcoming party, including representatives of the United Arab Republic, heard him tell newspapermen that he completely disagreed with the Russian proposals to reorganise the United Nations, that he did not want to comment on President Nasser's speech, but that he did not think that Nasser spoke for the entire Arab world.

For some Americans, it must be admitted, this was a surprising thought.

IRAQ

ABDI: ON WHOSE SIDE NOW?

MOSCOW WREAKS A TRANSFORMATION

from our own correspondent

Baghdad:

I have never witnessed the results of brain-washing. But, from close quarters, I have been able to observe a transformation in a man's personality as astonishing in its results as any psychologically produced change.

The man is Baghdad Military Governor Maj.-Gen. Abdi, one of Prime Minister Kassem's closest friends. The instru-

ment with which his outlook was transformed was nothing more than a Soviet red carpet. But its effect was incredible.

When Abdi left here four weeks ago for an official visit to the Soviet Union, he went as one who had led the Iraqi anti-communist campaign of the past year. It was Abdi, working through the army and through his Prime Minister, who had done more than any other single man to disrupt and then frustrate the communist take-over in the administration.

"Love and brotherhood": That was a month ago. Now Abdi is back. He was received in the Soviet Union as a most honoured guest. Together with a number of senior officers he was travelled around the country through an almost endless series of receptions and dinners.

His visit culminated last week in a banquet given by the Soviet Chief of Staff which was attended by a host of senior staff officers, by Deputy Foreign Minister Sobolev, by Chairman of the State Committee for Vocational and Technical Education Zelenko and the head of the Near Eastern Department Kisilev.

And, at the end of it all, Abdi confessed: "I have sensed love, sincerity and brotherhood in everything I have done and wherever I have gone in the friendly Soviet Union . . . I have seen many things in the Soviet Union and have witnessed progress and prosperity in everything I saw. I found out that the Soviet people are true and generous towards all peoples. They truly seek peace."

Impressed by army: It is impossible to gauge the significance of all this without understanding the time, effort and skill which Abdi has applied to the countering of Soviet influence in Iraq. Around him in his task he gathered a strong group of conservative officers who shared his views and assisted him in the prosecution of his ends.

But, before he left Moscow, Abdi pledged that he would never forget the "love and friendship you cherish for the great Iraqi people." He is going to find it difficult to square this comment with the instructions regularly issued by him to his staff for the hounding of Soviet sympathisers.

What seems to have impressed him most during his Russian visit, apart from the liberal hospitality, was the preparedness of the Soviet army. "I admired their excellent training and discipline," he reported.

What all this will mean in terms of domestic policy—and Kassem's outlook—we are now waiting anxiously to find out.



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ZIONISM

MIXTURE AS BEFORE ?

NO DRAMATIC CHANGE IN AGENCY-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

from our own correspondent

Jerusalem :

When the Government pledged last May to "give full support to the endeavours of the Zionist Movement to unite the Jewish people behind the State," it was obvious to most people that this undertaking, of itself, was not going to do much to improve the relations between the two.

Much of the opposition to giving the Zionist Movement the special status it has sought has come from Prime Minister Ben-Gurion, who has been unwilling to accord it recognition as the sole representative of Jewry outside of Israel in dealings with Israel.

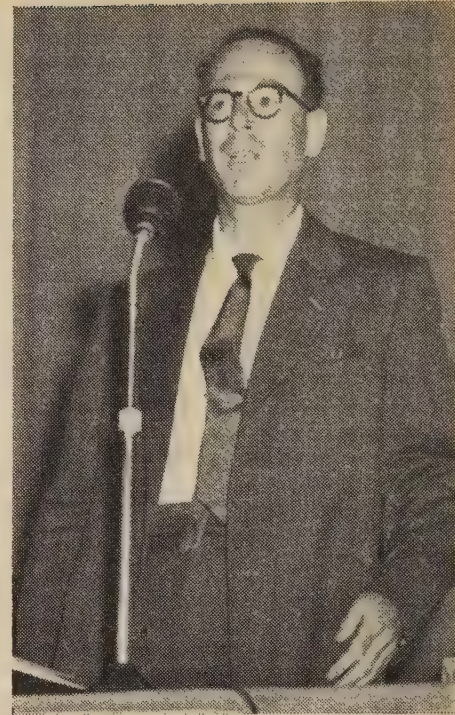
But Ben-Gurion was not only in a minority in the joint discussions between the Zionist Organisation and the Government, he was in a very lonely minority within his own party and the Cabinet.

Cabinet stays closed : His recognition of this fact lies behind the Cabinet resolution of last week which, while it does not ensure the status that the Zionist Organisation has always sought, does go a considerable way toward meeting the demands of Dr. Nahum Goldmann and his colleagues.

There are three main points in the Cabinet resolution:

- ¶ Regular meetings of the Israel Government-Jewish Agency Co-ordinating Committee will be held every two months (instead of the irregular meetings which have been held only once or twice a year);
- ¶ The Ministry of Justice will give the Jewish Agency advance notice of any legislation planned or drafted that may in any way affect the operations of the Jewish Agency; and
- ¶ The Foreign Minister will instruct all Israel envoys abroad to give full support to local Zionist organisations.

One of Dr. Goldmann's premier demands—that he be allowed to sit in at Cabinet meetings when matters concerning the Zionist Organisation were



BRITISH SETTLERS' LEADER JOHN WHITE
No one mentioned aliyah

under discussion—was turned down. Ben-Gurion would never agree to this.

No veto right : But now, having received Government agreement to a number of major requests, Zionist officials are beginning to realise that this is but the beginning not the end of the road. Without practical government implementation, the Cabinet resolution can remain as meaningless as the famous Agency-Government Covenant and the Zionist Organisation Status Law.

Opinions differ about where the fault lies in non-implementation of these two conventions. Some senior Agency officials say that there is top level co-operation but that the arrangements break down when it comes to the executive level. Others hold contrary views—that there is no real willingness at high governmental level to recognise the partnership of the Agency, but that departmental officials show great willingness.

It will have to be seen how the arrangements for regular meetings of the Co-ordinating Committee work out. But of immediate practical importance is the second part of the resolution providing for advance notice of certain legislation. This does not mean, however, that the Zionist Organisation will be given the status of a parliamentary committee authorised to approve or reject draft laws.

Instructions to envoys : Its recommendations will have moral force only, but it is certainly easier and more pleasant to

negotiate quietly on pending legislation than to raise a public storm over a law which already has parliamentary approval.

If sincerity and goodwill are prerequisites for the successful implementation of the first two provisions of the Cabinet resolution, these apply to an even greater extent to the third provision.

This provision is, in fact, already implemented on the Ministerial level—every Israel ambassador's letter of appointment requires that he give all possible assistance to the Jewish community and Zionist organisations in his country of posting.

What it depends on: Yaacov Tsur, the Executive member directing the Jewish Agency's Information Department after years of experience as an Israeli ambassador in various posts abroad, told your correspondent that, while he always interpreted this instruction in its broadest sense, it would have easily been possible to comply merely with the letter.

Thus, he pointed out, even if the Foreign Minister were now to send further instructions to her envoys abroad, it would continue to depend on their personal inclinations and sentiments as to how far they were prepared to go in putting them into practice.

He conceded, however, that most Israeli envoys abroad are now taking a very active part in Zionist activities in their countries of accreditation—with the sole exception, of course, of the communist countries where Zionist activities are illegal.

How much? But even full implementation of the entire Cabinet resolution will not resolve some of the major issues which still trouble the relations between the Government and the Agency. There is, for one, the perennial question of the government's contribution to the Agency's settlement budget which is the cause for an annual wrangle.

Then there is the question of how much the Agency can rightly allocate from its overtaxed budget to educational and youth work overseas (the amount next year will be 10 per cent of all income after the deduction of debt repayments). The Government favours these allocations in principle but opposes the allocation of a fixed percentage in advance, preferring that they be weighed against other current needs.

Another argument revolves around the rate of exchange which the Agency receives for the foreign currency it brings into Israel. At present it receives the rate of 5.04 Israeli pounds for each pound sterling. Tourists, however, can

legally exchange their sterling at a rate of one pound for six Israeli pounds and there are arrangements for the purchase of Israeli-made goods (free of tax) which gives a return of 8.40 Israeli pounds for each pound sterling.

On the lower levels: Allied with this problem is that of the importation of equipment for which the Agency must pay full customs duty (whereas Hadasah, for example, paid no duty on the equipment it brought in for the Jerusalem Medical Centre). Agency officials concede that the Finance Ministry (headed by Levi Eshkol, himself a member of the Agency Executive) would like to liberalise

its policy in this respect were it not for the precedent that such a move would set and of which advantage would be taken by a host of minor organisations, not all of them operating with the purest of motives.

Shades of opinion within the Cabinet on the efficacy of the new resolution are about as many as the ministers, with little regard to party allegiances. Transport Minister Ben-Aharon of Ahdut Avoda, who stands about half way between the extremes, sees some progress in the new arrangement, although he feels that no issue of principle has been settled. The best he can foresee is a closer working relationship at the lower levels.



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WHAT COMES AFTER NEHRU?

INDIA TODAY, by Frank Moraes; index, 248 pp.; (Macmillan Company, New York and London) cloth 28s., paper 10s. 6d.

This frank, straightforward description of the political scene of India provides a timely background for the understanding of some of the basic problems of a country that is 12 years old but has a history that goes back three thousand years. In a sense, it is absurd to talk of parallels between India and Israel. The one has a population of five hundred million, the other of two million; the one embraces a continent, the other barely a county in size. And yet, as one reads through these pages, the fundamentals of independence seem to be no respecter of size. The vanishing élite that once worked with Ghandi is no more. Nehru is its last representative. Who will come after him?

There is no sense of a successor generation as there is today in Israel. Nehru never raised the younger members around him in the same sense as Ben-Gurion. That is not to say that there are no young men of ability and note. There are probably many in India; but they have not been marked for high office, not tried out, not presented in public. Hence the uneasiness to which Moraes refers.

He also sketches with frank and clear lines the implications of Nehru's neutralism. It moves with firm steps from precise and effective non-alignment before Bandung to the increasingly faltering steps of Nehru's (and Menon's?) latter-day neutralism. Mr. Moraes brings out very clearly the growing ineffectiveness of Nehru in international affairs, the marked lack of a sense of direction in Indian foreign policy. The Chinese invasion of Tibet played a profound part, according to Moraes, in the growing criticism of Nehru's careful and non-committal attitudes. The clamour for a more decisive assertion of India's position is becoming greater. If Mr. Moraes is right, then this Indian pillar of neutralism may one of these days give way—and what then?

Moraes is not concerned to provide the answers, but he has managed to provide us with some important reminders of Nehru's India—and of the impact the rapid passing of this India may have on the world, and not least the Middle East.

Jon Kimche

SOME NEW PENGUINS

THE PENGUIN DICTIONARY OF QUOTATIONS, edited by J. M. and M. J. Cohen; 664 pp.; (Penguin Reference Books) 10s. 6d.

A pricier Penguin than usual—and worth every penny of it, with pages of delight for the academician and lay browser alike and, wonder of wonders, an index free of perplexities. Donne, Isaiah and Shakespeare provide their expected quotas, but the Cohens, father and son, have ranged beyond the usual boundaries to record some more favourite limricks, a clutch of book titles and a peppering of contemporary sayings (including the still remembered and oh-so-funny catch-phrase of twenty years ago, "Can I do you now sir?"). But it is, as the wily Dr. Brewer well knew, the literary quotations that give the greatest pleasure. It is worth the price of the book just to be reminded of that glorious passage from Joyce's *Ulysses*: "I regard him as the whitest man I know. He is down on his luck at present owing to the mortgaging of his extensive property at Agendath Netaim in faraway Asia Minor, slides of which will now be shown." Recommended without reservation.

THE READER'S GUIDE; 351 pp.; (Penguin Books) 5s.

An answer to those bothersome friends who, rather than trouble their librarian, are perpetually asking: "Can you recommend me a book on . . .?" Penguin Books have had the courage to ask a number of scholars and others similarly well-read to recommend logical courses of reading in a wide variety of topics from art to politics, from novels to natural history. The selections are, naturally, subjective, in many cases conservative, and in not a few, surprising. Professor Pevsner can be forgiven the applause with which he recommends a number of his own works on architecture, but not for overlooking Rasmusen's monumental yet readable "London." Walter Allen has made an excellent job of his fiction list, but has there been nothing worth reading since the publication of Thomas Mann's "Confessions of Felix Krull" in 1954? And is Nevill Barbour's "Nisi Dominus" the only choice that C. M. Woodhouse can recommend for the student of the Israel-Arab problem? Shortcomings, of course, there must be in a collection of this sort—so warn your friends.

G.D.P.

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HAMISH HAMILTON

COMPANY MEETING

BEAUTILITY FURNITURE

The twenty-ninth annual general meeting of Beautility Furniture Limited was held on September 21 in London, Mr. Rupert O. White, F.C.A., chairman, presiding.

The following are extracts from his circulated statement for the year ended March 31, 1960:—

The profit before taxation shows an increase of £92,150 to £386,273 and this profit is the highest in the Company's history as also were the year's sales. Your Directors are proposing a final dividend of 15 per cent making 20 per cent for the year.

In pursuance of the policy of acquiring other interests which would conveniently fit in with your Company's main activities, we examined a number of projects last year and eventually purchased the whole of the capital of Blue Gate Products Limited and Alfa Processed Panels Limited, makers of kitchen equipment.

Unfortunately the Government's new regulations on Hire Purchase have adversely affected the trade of the new subsidiaries and also our own. Whilst these restrictions remain in force I cannot forecast the results of the current year except to say that I am confident that we shall do relatively as well as the rest of the industry.

In fixing the rate of dividend for last year your Directors have taken into consideration both the excellent results shown and the current trend of trade.

Shareholders can regard the future of the Company with confidence in spite of transient difficulties and the profit for the year to March 31, 1960, gives some indication of the potential earning capacity of your company in a market free of onerous restrictions on sales.

The report was adopted.

ISRAELI ENTERPRISE

PROGRESS CATCHES UP WITH THE PORTS

NEW HARBOUR AT ASHDOD WILL SOLVE PROBLEM

from Yohanan Ramati

Congestion at Israel ports has reached a new zenith. In Haifa, demurrage* paid during the first eight months of 1960 totalled some £134,000. In August alone, more than £32,150 was paid out, well above the average for earlier months.

A large proportion of the days that had to be paid for were due to delays in unloading grain. The Dagon silo could have managed the necessary quantity without undue strain, but there is not enough room and the grain is not being collected fast enough.

It now takes approximately three weeks to unload a grain freighter, and this means paying out an extra £5,350 per ship in demurrage.

Already overloaded: There is a reason for this unsatisfactory state of affairs. Israel's ports were never planned to accommodate the volume of trade now passing through them. By the end of 1959, they were already operating at 500,000 tons above their optimum capacity, and in 1960, the volume of imports and exports has been considerably larger than last year.

Some emergency measures are being planned in Haifa, which will increase the capacity of the port somewhat, but these are palliatives—not a solution. Moreover, it would be economically unsound to ex-

pand Haifa's capacity by very much, since the main population centre of the country is in the Dan region surrounding Tel Aviv.

By bringing imports destined for Tel Aviv and Jerusalem to Haifa, their final cost to the consumer is unnecessarily increased by inland transport charges. The ports of Tel Aviv and Jaffa, on the other hand, do not provide a feasible alternative.

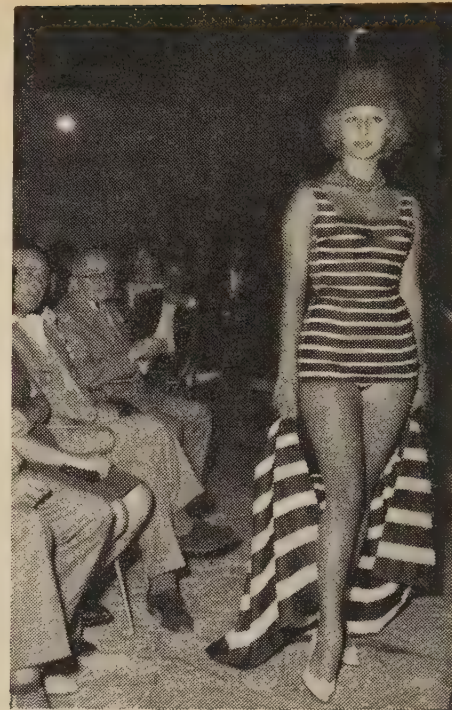
New harbours cheaper: Today, they are operated with the aid of lighters, which increase loading and unloading costs by some £7 (£1.7.6.) per ton. There would be great difficulties in converting either of them into a deep-water harbour, since the coastline is built up, and the topography is in any case not particularly suitable.

Any such attempt would be likely to cost more than building an entirely new harbour in a less populated area, and would in the end result in a less efficient port.

This is the background to the Government's decision to build a deep-water harbour at Ashdod Yam, on the coast west of Rehovot, which may now be implemented more quickly, since the World Bank has agreed to grant Israel a loan of \$27,500,000 (£9,822,000) for this purpose.

25-year loan: The technical contracts still remain to be signed, but the financial terms are already settled. The money will be lent for 25 years, at 5½ per cent interest per year. There is also a yearly commission charge of ¼ per cent.

The World Bank has requested full details of how the funds will be spent, and these will be supplied. Even then, the money will not be paid over in one lump sum, but in stages on presentation of



ANOTHER SORT OF SEASCAPE
All eyes on exports

contracts, invoices or receipts.

At the same time, the World Bank has agreed that a certain proportion of the local currency cost of the harbour construction be covered from the loan, as well as the foreign currency expenditure. This is a concession not without precedents, but is much appreciated nevertheless.

Tenders invited: The Israel Ministry of Communications has already invited tenders for the first stages of the job.

In order to comply with World Bank requirements, this is an open international tender in which all countries with membership in the Bank (as well as Switzerland) can participate. Once the contractors have been chosen, it is hoped to go ahead at full speed.

The World Bank loan has given great satisfaction in the country. Only in September of last year, Israel's subscription to the share capital of the Bank was raised from \$7.5 million to \$33.3 million; the money being paid in two instalments in November, 1959 and April, 1960.

After Bank mission: The increase in Israel's subscription followed the visit of a World Bank mission last year, which prepared a report on the state of the Israel economy.

It would seem that the favourable conclusions reached by the mission were instrumental in paving the way to the approval of the Ashdod harbour loan. Now it only remains for the work to get under way as quickly as possible.

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PROFESSIONALS LIVE UP TO THEIR INCOME

NO SAVINGS FOR A RAINY DAY

The free professions, the so-called "self-employed" or "independents," have for a long time been the Cinderellas of Israel's economy. The Inland Revenue authorities regard them with suspicion, for, unlike employees, their taxes are not deducted at source under P.A.Y.E.

Not only taxes, but savings as well have been more easily forthcoming from wage earners and salaried employees. 320,000 of them out of a total of 430,000 have I£395 million to their credit in over 400 savings organisations of different kinds.

Actually, employees do not have much choice in the matter of savings. Their contributions are deducted from their pay packets automatically, and many people do not even know the exact amounts they are paying into various savings schemes.

No security: The picture is quite a different one as far as the self-employed sector of the population is concerned. Of the 140,000 or so, only 20,000 (15 per cent) participate in voluntary savings schemes, putting by just over I£7 million a year. A further 17,000 save I£3 million a year through endowment policies.

Although many professional men do belong to some kind of sick fund, there are over 100,000 of them who appear to have no savings with which to face the hazards of old age or inability to work.

Even those who are members of sick funds have very little security if they should become chronically ill, and none at all for their retirement. The economic aspect of this state of affairs is beginning to worry the Government.

Investment capital lost: The authorities and the private banks have come to realise that the conspicuous absence of widespread saving on the part of self-employed professionals means that many millions of pounds which would otherwise be available for investment are lost.

At a recent one-day conference in Tel Aviv, organised by the Ministry of Finance, Bank Leumi chairman Dr. Foerder expressed the view that, if these potential savings could be harvested, they might be more useful than foreign investments.

One reason for the lack of saving by professionals is that many of them have spent all their surplus earnings during the past ten years on housing accommodation and basic household equipment.



PREPARING FOR A HIGHER INCOME GROUP LIFE
Savers or spenders?—the government may help them decide

Also, many of them now run cars, an expensive item in modern Israel.

Reduced tax on "social benefits": Another factor is unawareness on the part of the public that a proportion of savings can be set against income and is free of tax, although the amount is not a very large one.

At present, tax-payers do not pay any income tax on 25 per cent of their total outlay on "social benefits," but they must not exceed I£1,200 or 20 per cent of annual income.

For tax purposes, social benefit expenditure is divided into two categories: health insurance, medical treatment, contributions to a national fund and to the Government social security scheme fall within the first category. Life insurance and providence fund contributions come in the second category. Anyone claiming the full I£1,200 expenditure on any or all of these would be allowed I£300 tax relief.

Increased relief? Experts have suggested that the amount of tax relief should be increased to 40 per cent, or, in the case of people over forty entering

a savings scheme, to 50 per cent, a provision existing in the U.K.

If these concessions were introduced, it is likely that saving by professionals would increase substantially. Some experts believe that the figure might well reach I£100 million a year, and, as the *Jerusalem Post* put it, "the mouths of the bankers water at the prospect of so much money potentially available for investment."

Something may soon be done to tap some of these potential savings resources. It is rumoured in usually well informed banking circles that the Ministry of Finance is at present preparing a special ordinance increasing the amount of tax relief on savings.

Dollar-linked schemes: To raise saving by the self-employed professional classes from its present level of I£10 million to ten times that will, however, need more than additional tax reliefs.

People save for various reasons, but one of the most important is security, either for themselves or for their children. Money savings are only regarded as affording security if the currency is

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stable. Where there are violent fluctuations because of inflationary factors, people invest their money in such things as capital goods, housing, and so on, which appear to them to keep or even gain in value. This is what the professionals have been doing.

The banks, realising this, have now begun to inaugurate savings schemes linked to the dollar or the cost-of-living index, in order to protect potential savers against inflation, but many members of the public remain sceptical. Once the Government can convince them that the currency is strong enough not to depreciate very much during the coming years, savings are likely to show a sharp upward trend.

IN BRIEF

TWICE AS MANY WORKERS

In the last ten years Israel's industrial work force has increased from 73,000 to 160,000. According to Histadrut statistics, 130,000 men and women are industrial wage earners, and 30,000 self-employed or working on a contractual basis.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK TO EXPAND

Founded three years ago to help finance industry, particularly in development

areas, the Industrial Development Bank of Israel is already planning to triple its working capital and bring it up to £250 million by 1964.

Up to May 1960 the Bank had granted £102 million of long and medium-term loans to industrial undertakings.

MILLIONS ON OIL PROSPECTING

£70 million have been invested in prospecting and the acquisition of drilling equipment since 1953. Drilling all over Israel has reached a total depth of 140 miles.

RASSCO IMPORTS MERINO SHEEP

1,000 head of Merino sheep are being brought to Israel from Australia by Rassco (Rural and Suburban Settlement Company Ltd.), and will be put to pasture in Rassco's citrus groves.

This import is part of a project designed gradually to increase Israel's sheep population and to promote local wool production. The sheep will subsist on wild grasses and weeds, and will enrich the soil by supplying natural fertiliser.

ISRAELI ENTERPRISE is prepared by the Jewish Observer—Israel Periodicals, 13 Montefiore Street, Tel Aviv. Phone: 65882 and 63303.

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JPA-JNF NEWS

Prepared by JPA/JNF Public Relations Department, Furnival House, 14 High Holborn, W.C.1. Chancery 5986/7

CHIEF RABBI'S APPEAL: FIRST RESULTS

During the whole of last Sunday and Monday, the figures of Kol Nidre Appeal results came into J.P.A. Head Office, and the kind of tension such as one knows when election figures appear on the television screen began to grow.

The question uppermost in the minds of the committee organising the Chief Rabbi's Appeal was: will last year's total of £70,000 be exceeded? How were the Provincial synagogues doing? Would the London results compare as well as last year's?

What did emerge clearly was that this particular message of the Chief Rabbi, conveyed by Ministers in more than a hundred synagogues throughout the country, had indeed reached the congregations. It was seen that St. John's Wood, with £5,300, and Hampstead Garden Suburb (£5,000) would again top the list. Leeds came through with a consolidated contribution from all its synagogues of £3,000. Other North-West London synagogues also came up to expectation.

This year it has not been possible to

obtain an accurate national picture so early because of the intervention of the weekend. But by Monday evening it was clear that the effort would very nearly equal last year's figure. And as this newspaper went to press one day earlier than usual, the Kol Nidre committee advanced the view that with particularly high contributions from various cities in the Provinces, there was a definite possibility that the Chief Rabbi's Appeal for Israel would terminate at a level above the £70,000 of last year.

A special plea went out on Monday from the J.P.A. administrative committee to all contributors to change their pledges into cash at once. Synagogues are urged to send the money in as soon as it is received, so that it may be remitted immediately to Israel and benefit the causes which the Chief Rabbi has nominated.

Here is the preliminary list of results in alphabetical order:

	£
Barking & Becontree	120

Brixton	700
Cricklewood	1,100
Dollis Hill	1,200
East Ham, Manor Park and Ilford	200
Edmonton and Tottenham ...	50
Edgware	2,100
Edgware Yeshuran	600
Gladstone Park and Neasden (Ahavath Shalom)	400
Hampstead Garden Suburb ...	5,000
Highams Park and Chingford ...	260
Highbury	320
Highgate	200
Hornsey and Wood Green ...	80
Ilford District	800
Ilford Federation	200
Kingston, Surbiton and District	250
Leeds	3,000
North-East London Beth Hamedrash	100
St. John's Wood	5,300
Shaare Shomayim (Clapton Synagogue)	570
Upton Park	120
Wanstead & Woodford	340
West Hackney	66
West Ham	320
Whitley Bay	100

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The Chief Rabbi's

KOL NIDRE *APPEAL FOR ISRAEL*

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J P A - J N F N E W S

J.N.F. ANNUAL CONFERENCE WILL HEAR KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY YAACOV TSUR



Mr. Tsur at the 1958 Conference with (Left) Michael Sacher.

The J.N.F. administrative committee announce that this year's Annual Conference, which is due to take place at the Savoy Hotel on Saturday evening and Sunday, November 5-6, will have Yaacov Tsur, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Keren Kayemeth, as its principal speaker at the Saturday night session. He will be accompanied on the platform by the Israel Ambassador and Mme. Lourie, as well as Anglo-Jewish personalities.

Role Reversed : Mr. Tsur, it will be recalled, came from Paris to address the annual conference two years ago. He is a man who has reversed the traditional role of Jewish service. He went back to the Zionist movement after reaching one of Israel's top diplomatic positions, that of Ambassador to France. Usually it is the government which 'captures' the bright man of Zionism for state duties.

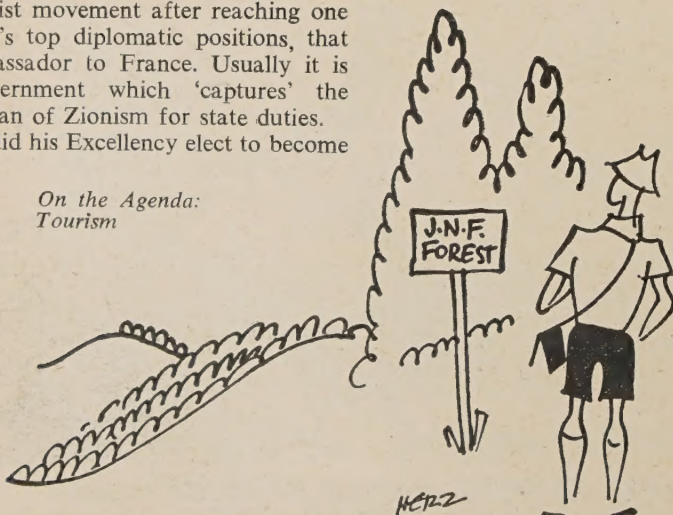
Why did his Excellency elect to become

plain Mister in this case? Primarily because he looks upon the problems of world Jewry as being the greatest challenge open to a man with a philosophical turn of mind and a distrust of insularity. Israel is a part of world Jewry: it was logical, therefore, that he think in terms of the whole as soon as he regarded his mission to Paris as completed.

Background : A literary background and some cloak and dagger work for the Jewish Agency were Yaacov Tsur's training for state service when the year 1948 dawned. His father was Shmuel Tschernitz, who edited *Hatzefira* with Nahum Sokolow in the early years of the century. They were difficult times for the family, and Yaacov had to fend for himself very early when they moved to Palestine in 1921. Tsur tried several times to complete his studies in Europe, but instead he was in and out of the Jewish Agency building right up to World War II, which found him in Cairo and at the centre of the secret work which preceded Jewish parachute drops into enemy territory and the foundation of the Jewish Brigade.

His first diplomatic post was in Uruguay, and after five years in South America he was transferred to Paris. Franco-Israel relations are a subject about which much has been conjectured, particularly around the Sinai period. So far Tsur has not spoken, but when he does, we shall get the story from a man who really was there, saw all and deserves a large part of the glory.

On the Agenda:
Tourism



Lourie to speak : Another noteworthy feature of this Conference, which is to utilise the guest speaker's presence for a major discussion on public relations and tourism (Yaacov Tsur is also Jewish Agency executive member in charge of Information) will be an important statement by Ambassador Arthur Lourie. What he says that evening will undoubtedly have its bearing on the nature of J.N.F. and J.P.A. activity during the coming year, as indeed it should provide a lead for the whole Anglo-Zionist movement as Congress approaches.

The many hundreds of visitors who throng the Savoy's Lincoln Room on the Saturday night are bound also to await with keen interest the presidential address of Rosser Chinn, his first to a national conference since his election. Mr. Chinn has had a year stomping the country, meeting active and potential workers in their homes and at small and large gatherings. He is expected to sum up his experiences in a trenchant review that will incorporate proposals which may well give a new look to the fund-raising and educational picture in this country.

U.J.A. STUDY MISSION

A 140-man United Jewish Appeal Study Mission will be meeting in Rome next week for a discussion under the auspices of the Joint Distribution Committee. Task of the Mission will be to proceed after briefings to Israel, where it will meet Government and Jewish Agency leaders and other bodies conducting programmes among new immigrants.

The Mission is scheduled to survey farm settlements, hospitals, institutions and new development projects so as to return to New York with proposals for the U.J.A. Conference on December 9-11.

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, U.J.A. executive vice-chairman, was due in London today (Friday) to meet British J.P.A. leaders prior to going on to Rome.

COLLEAGUES' TRIBUTE

At the Younger Commissions Conference, reported in our columns last week, Trevor Chinn made a presentation to the retiring secretary, Rudy Friedmann. This was in tribute to Mr. Friedmann's work over the past two years in helping to bring the younger groups to their present strength.

It was also unanimously agreed that Mr. Friedmann join the executive as an honorary member.

JPA - JNF NEWS

ON REACHING THIRTEEN

In the Jewish faith the thirteenth year is a milestone that calls for celebration, assessment and dedication. Many other peoples are superstitious about the number thirteen and consider it a symbol of ill-luck. But in Judaism it is a sign of promise to come. The child has reached maturity and must carry out his duties as a man.

You can make this occasion especially meaningful for a *Barmitzvah* boy near to you by inscribing him in the register which is retained in Jerusalem. This may be done on payment of ten guineas, which is used by the Jewish National Fund for its land reclamation purposes, and in this way the child is initiated into the heritage of Israel as he crosses the threshold of manhood.

In many countries *Sefer Barmitzvah* has long held an honoured place in community life, and it is now intended to revive the practice in Britain. With his inscription the child receives a beautifully illustrated album from the Jewish National Fund, containing simple ethical ideas, stories, and many fine illustrations depicting Israel as a faith and an historical idea.

In this column there will be published as a regular feature particulars of recent inscriptions in the *Sefer Barmitzvah*, such as these below.

Samuel David Gold by the Mazkirut and members of the Federation of Zionist Youth; Jeffrey Raymond Normie by his parents; Arnold Geoffrey Zermansky by his parents; Andrew Colin Bloomberg by his parents; Elliot Graham Moss by his parents; Nigel Grant by his parents; David Morris Cowan by his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred (Abraham) Cowan; Stuart Alexander Williamson by his parents; Sidney Oxley by his parents.

HAMPSTEAD

Hampstead Commission members last week considered at a meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. I. J. Burston their plans for making "Toys in the Attic," at the Piccadilly Theatre on November 15th, a big local success.

Mr. Burston once again accepted a large part of the responsibility for the brochure and ticket sales, while other members present undertook to give him full support.

TREE INSCRIPTIONS

An avenue of 60 trees in memory of Rachael Shaffer by her sisters Edith Epstein and Pearl Shaffer; 30 trees in the names Yahuda Nemanski, Leah Nemanski and Sarah Nemanski by Mrs. S. Rothberg; 30 trees in the names of Jacqueline Morrell and George Walfiz on the occasion of their marriage by the Southport Junior J.N.F. Commission; 15 trees in the names of Louis Ingleby and Karola Poss on the occasion of their marriage by the St. Annes Ziona; 15 trees in the names of Morris Jesky and Pamela Barc on the occasion of their engagement by the 5th National Conference of Younger J.N.F. Commissions;

Thirteen trees in the name of Peter Roger Rosen on the occasion of his barmitzvah by the North Manchester Young Wizo; 13 trees

in the name of Barry Joseph Roth on the occasion of his barmitzvah by the North Manchester Young Wizo; 13 trees in the name of Lawrence Greenberg on the occasion of his barmitzvah by the North Manchester Young Wizo; 13 trees in the name of Jonathan Laurence Manson on the occasion of his barmitzvah by the North Manchester Young Wizo; 13 trees in the name of Andrew Jonathan Lizer on the occasion of his barmitzvah by the North Manchester Young Wizo; 13 trees in the name of Jeffrey Becker on the occasion of his barmitzvah by the St. Annes Ziona; 13 trees in the name of Stephen Noar on the occasion of his barmitzvah by his parents Ralph and Sylvia Noar; 13 trees in the name of Steven Windsor Leslie on the occasion of his barmitzvah by his parents; 13 trees in the name of Stuart Neil Lasky on the occasion of his barmitzvah by the Golders Green Synagogue, Parents Association.

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SHOP PROPERTIES *wanted in Dunfermline, Perth, Aberdeen, Greenock, Motherwell, Coatbridge and especially in the North of England.*

ALL OFFERS IN STRICT CONFIDENCE TO GLASGOW OFFICE